

A TRIBUTE TO THE EAST END
ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL
OF LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the East End Arts and Humanities Council, of Riverhead, Long Island, as this grassroots, community arts program celebrates 25 years of providing invaluable support and encouragement to the artists, writers, and performers in the communities of Eastern Long Island.

Located in an historic Main Street building in a space donated by the town of Riverhead, the East End Arts and Humanities Council is dedicated to fostering a positive environment for the arts throughout the rural landscape it serves between Moriches and Montauk on the south, and on the north from Port Jefferson to Orient. Long Island artists are fortunate to make use of all that the Arts Council makes available, from exhibition galleries to the region's only community school of the arts, outbuildings that are used as artist-in-residence studios and a charming village green used for outdoor art events and performances.

With a long and proud reputation as a safe haven and supportive environment, the East End of Long Island is home to a world renowned number of accomplished and emerging artists. To sustain this creative environment and service this thriving community, the East End Arts Council has helped develop a network of more than 200 arts organizations, each of whom is dedicated to sustaining and supporting a community that cherishes the arts.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the arts are a vital force in society, enriching our lives with the beauty and impact of human expression and providing a source of entertainment and pleasure for all Americans. Just as importantly, the arts are an important tool in the education of our children. Several analyses of arts education show that children who study music demonstrate significantly improved ability to master mathematics, and students with four or more years of arts education consistently score higher on the SAT college entrance exam than students without an arts background. There is a clear and demonstrable connection between studying the arts and increased scholastic aptitude, a connection that as national leaders we are duty-bound to help foster and develop.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I stand today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and proudly offer my congratulations to the East End Arts and Humanities Council on this special 25th anniversary. May the Long Island community continue to be blessed by their work for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE BENSON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 I received the Republican

nomination for Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, thus earning the privilege of running for office on the ticket of Mr. Bruce Benson of Denver. This experience allowed me the opportunity to build a friendship that is very important to me with a true Coloradan who embodies the genuine spirit of the West.

Mr. Benson and his wife Mary are the most generous people I know. Their devotion to the people of Colorado is legendary. In particular, Bruce's dedication to the State's higher education system has spanned official, voluntary, and professional capacity.

Once chairman of the Colorado Republican party, Mr. Benson continues to express his love for Colorado's picturesque vistas, wildlife, and environment through political activism and community leadership. His commitment to economic expression, job creation, public safety, and economic opportunity is seconded only by his interest in improving the quality of education for all Colorado children.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to know Bruce Benson as a friend, but more importantly, as a Coloradan. Clearly, his leadership in Colorado continues to inspire many and ensure greater hope and optimism for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the Denver Post, yesterday, published an editorial commentary praising the many contributions of Bruce Benson. I first commend the Post and further submit its comment for the RECORD.

[From the Denver Post, Oct. 30, 1997].

BENSON BUILDS LEGACY

With today's dedication of the Benson Earth Sciences Building at the University of Colorado in Boulder, former GOP gubernatorial candidate Bruce Benson translates his long history of service to CU into the most tangible of contributions: a building in which young people can learn.

The naming of the building commemorates Benson's leadership of the fund-raising drive that made the \$14.5 million building possible, as well as a substantial contribution from the Benson family. Nor will Benson rest on his laurels. He and his wife, Marcy, have also agreed to spearhead the campaign to raise more than \$271 million to support CU President John Buechner's ambitious Total Learning Environment initiative.

A 1964 graduate of CU, Benson received his degree in petroleum geology.

He is now the owner and president of Benson Mineral Group, but perhaps more importantly, he is also a consistent contributor—of time and energy, as well as money—to Colorado's civic well-being. His activities as both state chairman and candidate for the state Republican Party have won the headlines, but the range and depth of his activity are awesome. He's served not only in the public realm but in private philanthropy, as well. His chairmanship of the state commission on higher education from 1986-1989 underscores his sustaining interest in higher education. He is chairman of both the Denver Zoological Foundation and Boy Scouts of America in the area. Other beneficiaries of Benson's 16-hour-day energies include the Denver Botanic Gardens, Arthritis Foundation, Denver Museum of Natural History, Safe City Foundation and the University of Denver.

We congratulate both the University of Colorado, which is adding a vital new learning center and launching an important effort to further enhance its program, and Bruce Benson, who has added a crowning credit to a noteworthy career of service.

Again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Benson is a great Coloradan and certainly worthy of being hon-

ored and considered by the House as an exemplary American.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL
PARTRIDGE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Partridge as he is honored by the Taminent Democratic Club at their 66th Annual Dinner Dance.

Mr. Partridge was born on the island of Cyprus on February 13, 1941. In 1947, he and his family moved to Astoria where Michael attended P.S. 4 and L.I.C. High School. From age seven through his early teens, Michael worked in his father's restaurant.

After high school, Michael studied philosophy and political science at Hunter College and later studied law at St. Johns Law and Boston Law. During his law school years, he met and married Mary and became the father of Harry. Michael also joined the National Guard during this time.

After practicing law for several years, Michael became disenchanted with the law and turned his attention toward other endeavors. Around this time, he met Ralph DeMarco who introduced him to the Taminent Democratic Club.

Michael's involvement with the Taminent included a rehabilitation program he founded with Peter Vallone to reverse the high recidivism rate at Rikers Island. During its first year, the Rikers' program placed all of its graduates in jobs or schools.

After launching his successful program on Rikers Island, Michael became involved in real estate. He rehabilitated apartment houses in Jamaica, Queens, and opened the Coliseum Mall, which helped to revitalize Jamaica Avenue.

Michael's interests also brought him into the political arena where he worked on Mario Cuomo's campaign for Governor of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Mr. Michael Partridge, a man who has worked very hard to improve his community. I would also like to honor the Taminent Democratic Club on the occasion of their 66th Annual Dinner Dance.

RECOGNITION OF REV. BOB ROBERTSON'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE EVERETT, PA, FIRST
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Bob Robertson of the Everett, PA, First United Church of Christ was recently honored for his 25 years of service to the church and to the community.

I rise to pay tribute to this outstanding man of the cloth. Bob Robertson not only has served his church with distinction, but has played an extraordinary, behind-the-scenes role in helping those most in need in the community. He is the Pastor to our church in our